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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/675,238

09/29/2003

William H. Whitted

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EXAMINER

ESTRADA, ANGEL R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2831

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/675,238

Applicant(s)

WHITTED, WILLIAM H.

Examiner

Angel R. Estrada

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6, 8-12 and 15-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 5, 7, 13 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-12 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Theis et al (US 6,380,484, hereinafter Theis).

Regarding claim 1, Theis discloses a cable management system (10) for managing cables to be connected to electronics devices, comprising: a cable management housing (see figure 1) to substantially house the cables to be managed therein, the cable management housing (see figure 1) defining a plurality of openings (18a, 18b, 18n) configured to contain a plurality of cables extending therethrough, each opening having: a first opening portion (18a-1) configured to contain a plurality of cables extending therethrough, a second opening portion (18a-3) configured to contain a plurality of cables extending therethrough (see figure 5), the second opening portion (18a-3) being disposed further away from the electronics devices than the first opening portion, and a passage portion extending between the first and second opening portions (18a-a), a passage portion (18a-2) being configured to allow passing of at least one cable between the first and second opening portions (see figures 1 and 5).

Regarding claim 2, Theis discloses the cable management system (100), wherein the first opening portion (18a-1) is disposed proximal to the electronics devices to allow the cables passing therethrough to be in a first cable position corresponding to the cables being connected to the electronics devices (see figure 5) and wherein the second opening portion (18a-3) is disposed distal to the devices to allow the cables passing therethrough to be in a second cable position corresponding to the cables being disconnected from the electronics devices (see figure 3).

Regarding claim 3, Theis discloses the cable management system (100), wherein the first (18a-1) and second opening portions (18a-3) are generally circular (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 6, Theis discloses the cable management system (100), where the first and second opening portions (18a-1, 18a-3) are disposed at an angle relative to each other (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 8, Theis discloses the cable management system (100), wherein the cable management housing (see figure 1) includes a removable side portion (24a) to facilitate access to the cables housed within the cable management housing (see figures 1 and 3).

Regarding claim 9, Theis discloses a cable management apparatus (100) for managing cables to be connected to electronics devices (not shown) coupled to removable modules in a rack-mounted system, comprising: a cable management housing (see figure 1) extending along the removable modules to house the cables to be managed therein, the cable management housing (see figure 1) defining a plurality

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of openings (18a, 18a, 18n) configured to contain a plurality of cables extending therethrough, each opening having: a first portion (18a-1) configured to contain a plurality of cables extending therethrough, a second portion (18a-3) disposed at an angle relative to the first portion (see figure 1), the second portion (18a-3) being configured to contain a plurality of cables extending therethrough, and a passing portion (18a-s) extending between the first and second portions (see figure 1), the portion being configured to allow passing of at least one cable between the first and second portions (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 10, This discloses the apparatus (100), wherein each opening (18a, 18b, 18n) corresponds to at most one removable module of the rack-mounted system (not shown, see abstract).

Regarding claim 11, This discloses the apparatus (100), wherein the first portion (18a-1) is disposed proximal to the electronics devices to allow the cables passing therethrough to be in a first position for connecting to the electronics devices (see figures 1 and 5) and wherein the second portion (18a-3) is disposed distal to the devices in the rack-mounted system to allow the cables passing therethrough to be in a second position corresponding to the cables being disconnected from the electronics devices (see figures 1 and 5).

Regarding claim 12, This discloses the apparatus (100), wherein the first and second portions (18a-1 and 18a-3) are generally circular (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 15, This discloses a method for management cables (see figure 1) to be connected to electronics devices, comprising the steps of: routing a

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plurality of cables to be managed through a cable management housing (100), substantially enclosing the cables therein (see figure 5), passing a portion of at least one cable through a first portion (18a-1) of one of a plurality of openings (18a, 18b, 18n) defined in the cable management housing (see figure 5), the openings being configured to contain a plurality of cables extending therethrough, each opening including a first and second portion (18a-1, 18a-3) each configured to contain a plurality of cables extending therethrough (see figure 5), and a passage portion (18a-2) extending between the first and second portions to allow passage of a cable therebetween; and passing the portion of the cable through the passage portion to the second portion of the opening (see figure 5)

Regarding claim 16, This discloses the method, wherein the step of passing the portion of the cable through the first portion (18a-1) of the opening includes positioning the portion of the cable proximal to the electronics devices (not shown) and wherein the step of passing the portion of the cable through the passage portion (18a-2) to the second portion (18a-3) includes positioning the portion of the cable distal to the electronics devices.

Regarding claim 17, This discloses the method, wherein the step of passing the portion of the cable through the passage portion (18a-2) to the second portion (18a-3) includes passing the portion of the cable (see figure 5) around a corner such that the first and second portions of the opening are at an angle relative to each other (see figure 5).

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 4, 5, 7, 13 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of claims 4, 5, 7, 13 and 14 are:

Regarding claims 4 and 5, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed features the cable management housing having a corner proximal to the electronics devices and wherein the passage portion is generally a bent portion extending in at least two directions from the corner.

Regarding claim 7, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed features the first and second opening portions being disposed at an approximately 90° relative to each other.

Regarding claims 13 and 14, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed features the cable management housing having a corner proximal to the devices in the rack mounted system and wherein the passage portion is generally a bent portion extending in at least two directions from the corner.

These limitations were found in claims 4, 5, 7, 13 and 14, and are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

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Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Larsen et al (US 6,365,834), Lawrence et al (US 6,504,100), Viklund et al (US 5,902,961), Witte (US 5,093,887), Krietzman et al (US 6,605,782), Benedict et al (US 6,318,680), Chan (US 6,686,541) and Fournier et al (US 6,347,714) disclose a cable management system.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Angel R. Estrada at telephone number (571) 272-1973. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 -5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext: 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Angel R. Estrada

May 6, 2004


DEAN A. REICHARD
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